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South Vietnam: There appears to be a mood of discouragement within government circles over the regime's inability to deal effectively with issues causing growing popular discontent.

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[redacted] Corruption is widespread among high-ranking South Vietnamese military officers, but President Thieu must nevertheless have the support of the military establishment to remain in office, and he appears to face a virtually hopeless task as he seeks to reassure the public.

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[redacted] many South Vietnamese regard the government's reliance on heavy-handed police methods as inexcusable and a sign of weakness.

Meanwhile, the police are discouraged about the government's failure to back them up in their handling of demonstrators.

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[redacted] Their morale may suffer further from a recent government admission that students accused of treason had been tortured during interrogation. Justice Ministry officials have said that four police officials are being charged in the case.

Although President Thieu tries to present an air of confidence, he is probably also discouraged about the general outlook. He has recently registered strong disappointment in the performance of some key ministries.

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